

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 888**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Members Lieu and Laird**

February 22, 2007

---

---

An act to add Part 4.5 (commencing with Section 71350) to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, relating to building standards.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 888, as amended, Lieu. Green building standards.

Existing law sets forth various requirements for energy and design efficiency in the construction of nonresidential buildings. Existing law authorizes state agencies to submit, and requires the Building Standards Commission to receive and review, proposed building standards for adoption, approval, publication, and codification.

This bill would require the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), by July 1, 2009, in conjunction with a working group of certain state entities that it would coordinate, and, in consultation with specified public and private sector organizations, to develop, adopt, and make available a set of minimum green building standards for specified nonresidential—~~public sector~~ *commercial* buildings. The standards would have to meet and encompass, at a minimum, the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold rating for new construction and major renovation. The California Building Standards Commission would be required to review these standards to ensure that they exceed and are not in conflict with the existing standards

in the California Building Standards Code. Before adopting the set of minimum green building standards, Cal-EPA would be required to hold 2 public workshops.

The bill would require Cal-EPA, on or before July 1, 2010, to submit the set of minimum green building standards to the California Building Standards Commission for adoption by that commission in the California Building Standards Code. The commission would be prohibited from reducing the minimum standards proposed by the agency but would be authorized to revise those standards. New ~~public-sector~~ *commercial* buildings constructed on or after July 1, 2012, that are 50,000 square feet or greater would be required to meet the minimum standards that are adopted by the California Building Standards Commission. A new ~~public-sector~~ *commercial* building constructed on or after July 1, 2012, that is less than 50,000 square feet or greater would be required to meet the adopted standards unless the owner of the building meets criteria, based on economic considerations, developed by CAL-EPA for granting a waiver.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Part 4.5 (commencing with Section 71350) is  
2 added to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

3

4 PART 4.5. GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR  
5 NONRESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

6

7 71350. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

8 (a) Buildings account for nearly 40 percent of the carbon dioxide  
9 emissions in the United States, more than any other sector.

10 (b) Transforming the building environment to be more energy  
11 efficient and climate friendly is a vital tool in the fight against  
12 global warming and toward reducing dependence on foreign oil.

13 (c) A United Nations' study showed that better architecture and  
14 energy savings in buildings could do more to fight global warming  
15 than all the curbs on greenhouse gases agreed to under the United  
16 Nations' Kyoto Protocol.

17 (d) The state is committed to providing leadership on energy,  
18 environmental, and public health issues by implementing

1 innovative and resource-efficient building design practices and  
2 other programs that improve the lives of the state's 34.5 million  
3 residents.

4 (e) The widespread adoption of green building principles would  
5 result in significant long-term benefits to the state's environment,  
6 including reduction in the demand for energy, water, and waste  
7 stream services, and the fiscal and environmental impacts resulting  
8 from the expansion of these infrastructures.

9 (f) Green buildings enhance indoor air quality, incorporate  
10 environmentally preferable products, and protect the building  
11 occupants' health.

12 (g) In depth studies of projects to analyze the cost of green  
13 buildings, using detailed cost estimates, demonstrate that there is  
14 no significant difference in the construction costs for the United  
15 States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and  
16 Environmental Design (LEED) buildings versus nonLEED  
17 buildings in any of the categories.

18 (h) More than a decade of results has proven that green buildings  
19 save money and typically pay back any additional first costs in  
20 operational savings within their first year of occupancy.

21 71351. It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this part,  
22 to recognize that no one set of existing green building practices  
23 may encompass the state's unique economic and natural  
24 resources-related environment. It is further the intent of the  
25 Legislature to ensure that the minimum standards adopted pursuant  
26 to this part recognize California's leadership in environmental  
27 sustainability practices and include the most rigorous measures  
28 and methods possible with regard to the factors specified in  
29 subdivision (d) of Section 71352.

30 71352. For the purposes of this part, the following terms means  
31 the following:

32 (a) "Agency" means the California Environmental Protection  
33 Agency.

34 (b) "*Commercial building*" means a building or structure that  
35 is in occupancy Group B as specified in Section 304 of Title 24 of  
36 the California Code of Regulations. Commercial building does  
37 not include an eating establishment or a building owned or leased  
38 by the Regents of the University of California.

39 ~~(b)~~

(c) “Green building” means a project designed to reduce both direct and indirect environmental consequences associated with its construction, use, operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning, the design of which is evaluated for cost, quality-of-life impacts, future flexibility, ease of maintenance, energy and resource efficiency, and overall environmental impact, with an emphasis on life-cycle cost analysis.

(e)

(d) “LEED gold rating” means the United States Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold rating for new construction and major renovation, as set forth in “Version 2.2” of LEED, as published by the USGBC in November of 2005.

(d)

(e) “Minimum green building standards” means green building standards for ~~public sector~~ *commercial* buildings that meet and encompass, at a minimum, the LEED gold rating or equivalent, and include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Sustainability of the site.

(2) Water efficiency.

(3) Energy and atmosphere.

(4) Material and resources and sustainable wood.

(5) Indoor environmental quality.

(6) Innovation and design process.

(7) Nonmotorized transportation.

(8) A method for determining life-cycle cost, including evaluating the relative effectiveness, cost, and life-cycle savings, if any, by the use of individual or multiple green building measures specified in this part.

~~(e) “Public sector building” means a nonresidential building that is within the occupancy groups specified in subdivision (a) of Section 100 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Public sector building does not include either of the following:~~

~~(1) A building owned or leased by the state or the Regents of the University of California.~~

~~(2) A building subject to Section 17070.965 of the Education Code.~~

71353. (a) On or before July 1, 2009, the agency, with the working group that it coordinates pursuant to subdivision (b), shall

1 develop, adopt, and make available, a set of minimum green  
2 building standards.

3 (b) (1) To develop the minimum green building standards  
4 pursuant to subdivision (a), the agency shall coordinate a working  
5 group consisting of a multiagency effort, including, but not limited  
6 to, all of the following state entities:

7 (A) The California Integrated Waste Management Board.

8 (B) The State Energy Resources Conservation and Development  
9 Commission.

10 (C) The State Air Resources Board.

11 (D) The Department of Water Resources.

12 (E) The Department of Housing and Community Development.

13 (F) The Department of General Services.

14 (G) The California Building Standards Commission.

15 (H) The Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment.

16 (I) The State Department of Public Health.

17 (2) The agency and each state entity specified in paragraph (1)  
18 shall also consult with representatives from each of the following:

19 (A) The building construction industry.

20 (B) Recognized environmental advocacy groups.

21 (C) Interested local government entities.

22 (D) Interested public parties.

23 (c) Each state entity specified in paragraph (1) shall take the  
24 lead in developing standards related to its particular area of  
25 expertise and shall ensure that the standards developed are at least  
26 equal to the LEED gold rating level.

27 (d) The agency shall be responsible for coordinating the  
28 integration of the separate aspects provided by each state entity  
29 into the minimum green building standards. The agency shall  
30 consult with the California Building Standards Commission to  
31 ensure that the standards developed pursuant to this section are  
32 not in conflict with the California Building Standards Code (Title  
33 24 of the California Code of Regulations).

34 (e) The minimum standards shall include a system for the  
35 certification of building projects based on attaining credits by  
36 complying with specified prerequisites.

37 (f) With respect to materials and resources and sustainable wood,  
38 the standards shall provide credits to those projects that use wood  
39 products that have a credible third party sustainable forest  
40 certification, as determined by the agency.

(g) Following the agency's coordination efforts, and prior to final adoption of minimum green building standards, the California Building Standards Commission shall review all aspects of the minimum green building standards to ensure all aspects of these standards exceed, and are not in conflict with, the existing standards in the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).

(h) Prior to the adoption of the set of minimum green building standards pursuant to subdivision (a), the agency shall hold at least two public workshops to discuss the standards and gather input from interested parties.

(i) As a part of the minimum green building standards adopted pursuant to subdivision (a), the agency shall adopt criteria, based on economic considerations, for determining the granting of a waiver pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 71355.

71354. On or before July 1, 2010, the agency shall submit the set of minimum green building standards adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 71353 to the California Building Standards Commission for adoption by that commission in the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations) pursuant to the State Building Standards Law (Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 18901) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code). The California Building Standards Commission may revise but shall not reduce the minimum standards submitted by the agency.

71355. (a) On and after July 1, 2012, a new ~~public-sector~~ *commercial* building that is 50,000 square feet or greater shall be constructed to meet the minimum green building standards adopted pursuant to Section 71354.

(b) On and after July 1, 2012, a new ~~public-sector~~ *commercial* building that is less than 50,000 square feet shall be constructed to meet the minimum green building standards adopted pursuant to Section 71354 unless the owner of the building or his or her agent obtains a waiver by demonstrating compliance with the criteria developed pursuant to subdivision (i) of Section 71533.